

## **PROGRESS REPORT No. 1 TO CABINET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) REHABILITATION OF VAITELE UTA DEGRADED QUARRY SITE**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION**

This is the first report on the Project Proposal submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat for funding under a grant by the Government of Venezuela for the Rehabilitation of the Vaitele Uta degraded quarry site.

#### **2. EXECUTING AGENCY**

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

#### **3. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

In October 2006, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela offered by way of Grant USD2million to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to support PICs with implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in the Pacific region. This Venezuela Grant was the core assignment, through political urge and efforts, of the Permanent Diplomatic Missions of the Pacific Island Countries to the United Nations in New York. Through the Administration of the UNCCD Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, the USD2million Grant has been evenly apportioned amongst 15 PICs, each expected to receive US\$80,000.00 with top-up amounts, upon receipt of project proposal focusing specifically on addressing land degradation and mitigation effects of drought in the following areas;

1. Land Degradation Rehabilitation (planting/tree nursery operations etc);
2. Drought Mitigation (drought-resistant plant introduction from local plant community in the Pacific etc.);
3. Alternative Energy (fuel, wood plantation, biogas, solar cell, etc);
4. Runoff Harvesting and Drinking Water Storage; and
5. Cash Crops Cultivation on eroding sites.

The small island countries of the Pacific is expected to develop projects that ensures outcomes to be practical in the form of visible activities at the grassroot level in order to combat land degradation symptoms and effects affecting countries of the Pacific.

Samoa recognizes that part of the bigger land degradation problem in the country is the degradation of land areas due to the high demand for removal of land aggregate materials for development purposes which have led to a number of neglected quarry sites seen in and around the country after operational use. This project therefore has piloted the Vaitele quarry site for vegetative rehabilitation purposes in order to convert it into a community asset. The main concern with the Vaitele quarry site is its location in the vicinity of a residential area hence there is a greater need to eliminate associated risks and hazards of the site through rehabilitative works.

This project, which similarly to the Medium Sized Project on Sustainable Land Management (MSP-SLM) is one of the Action Programmes of Samoa's National Action Programme (NAP). Whereas the GEF funded MSP-SLM focuses on national capacity building for SLM, this Venezuela funded Project prioritize on the ground visible activities at the grassroot level through piloting and demonstration.

## 5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Project Long Term Goal: *‘That the project is contributing towards the mitigation of land degradation through the promotion of rehabilitative and conservation measures for degraded land areas.’*
- Project Objective: *‘To ensure that the selected degraded area is brought under conservation measures and beneficial to communities.’*

## 6. SUMMARY OF OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Samoa is the first Pacific Island Nation to submit a Project Proposal to the UNCCD Secretariat for funding under the Venezuelan Grant. This was submitted in March 2007 and we are currently awaiting approval from the Secretariat.

The table below presents the Outcomes, Expected Outputs and Proposed Activities for the Project.

OUTCOME	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
<b>Rehabilitation Plan for Vaitele-Uta</b>	An effective Rehabilitation Plan for the degraded Vaitele site through a wide participatory consultation process involving all stakeholders	Consultative processes with the private sector including residents of Vaitele-Uta
		Develop Plan for rehabilitative works at the degraded Vaitele site
<b>Implementation of Vaitele Plan</b>	Conversion of degraded waste land area to a sustainable community asset as well as strengthened capacity at national and local levels	Land fill, top-soil covering and replanting of area
		Develop and convert site to a community asset beneficial to the Samoan people
		Awareness Media Campaigns and Consultation with private sector groups, resource users, Vaitele community and general public
<b>Project Management and Administration of Vaitele Site</b>	Effective achievement of sustainable management of the Vaitele site	1. Project management and administration
		2. Secure identified site at Vaitele-Uta
		3. Procure land for rehabilitative works

## 7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The financial assistance sought from UNCCD under this proposal is **US\$80,000.00** to be complemented with support from the Government of Samoa (GoS) valued at US\$80,000.00. This contribution by the GoS is to enable the acquirement and security of the site in preparation for the planned rehabilitative works and for overall management and administrative costs of the project. Therefore the total expected value of the project is US\$160, 000.00.

The Table below presents the proposed financing plan of Activities per Outcome and specifies the funding sources for each Outcome.

OUTCOME	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (\$US)	
		UNCCD Secretariat (Venezuela-Funded)	GoS In-Kind Contribution
Rehabilitation Plan for Vaitele-Uta	Consultative processes with the private sector including residents of Vaitele-Uta	\$5,000.00	
	Develop Plan for rehabilitative works at the degraded Vaitele site	\$10,000.00	
Vaitele Plan Implementation	Land fill, top-soil covering and replanting of area	\$40,000.00	
	Develop and convert site to a community asset beneficial to landowners	\$17,000.00	
	Awareness Media Campaigns and Consultation with private sector groups, resource users, Vaitele community and general public	\$8,000.00	
Administration of the Vaitele Site	Project management		\$10,000.00
	Secure identified site at Vaitele Uta		\$30,000.00
	Procure land for rehabilitative works		\$40,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$80,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$80,000.00</u></b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b><u>US\$160,000.00</u></b>	

### 8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES:

There are no major outstanding issues as we are currently awaiting approval and the transfer of funds to commence implementation of project activities.

### 9. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

This project, similar to MSP-SLM, is also a financial mechanism for implementation of Samoa's NAP. It is highly envisaged that this project provides an excellent opportunity to complement existing efforts through other similar environmental programmes in the restoration of degraded land areas. It shall also provide a baseline foundation for future rehabilitation of other degraded sites and complementary to mitigation efforts of droughts in Samoa.

### 10. SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

No major issues identified from this project unless during and after implementation

**11. RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the CDC Committee endorse this Progress Report which provides an update on the status of the Project Proposal submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat in March 2007.

**12. Signature of Executing Agency**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tu'u'u', with a small flourish at the end.

**Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo**  
**CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment**

**13. Date:**            **04 May 2007**